

REQUIREMENTS FOR
**EARLY CHILDHOOD SPECIAL EDUCATION, BIRTH – AGE 8 OR GRADE 3
CERTIFICATE
(EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2016)**

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION – CERTIFICATION UNIT

An individual who holds the Early Childhood teaching certificate or the Early Childhood endorsement in combination with an Arizona Mild-Moderate Disabilities, Emotional Disability, Learning Disability, Mental Retardation, Orthopedic / Other Health Impairment or Severely and Profoundly Disabled Special Education teaching certificate is not required to hold the Early Childhood Special Education certificate.

➤ **PROVISIONAL EARLY CHILDHOOD SPECIAL EDUCATION, BIRTH – AGE 8 OR GRADE 3 CERTIFICATE
(EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2016)**

The Provisional certificate is valid for 3 years and is not renewable, but may be extended once for 3 years.

Effective January 1, 2016, requirements for the Provisional Early Childhood Special Education certificate are:

1. Completed [Application for Certification](#)
2. Appropriate Fee (See *Application for Certification*)
3. A photocopy of your valid Arizona Department of Public Safety Identity Verified Prints (**IVP**) fingerprint card (plastic). For more information visit the [Arizona Department of Public Safety](#) website or call (602) 223-2279.
4. A Bachelor's or more advanced degree from an accredited institution. Official transcript(s) required.
5. One of the following (Option A, B, or C):
 - A. Completion of a teacher preparation program in early childhood special education from an accredited institution or a teacher preparation program approved by the Board.
 - B. Thirty-seven (37) semester hours of early childhood which teach the standards described in R7-2-602, to include all of the following areas of study:
 - (1) Foundations of early childhood education and special education; (2) Behavioral interventions for children with and without disabilities; (3) Characteristics and quality practices for typical and atypical behaviors of young children; (4) Typical and atypical child growth and development, including health, safety and nutrition with an emphasis on special health care needs for children birth through age 8 or grade 3; (5) Child, family, cultural and community relationships including community organizations that support and assist children with disabilities and their families; (6) Developmentally appropriate instructional and inclusive methodologies for teaching social and emotional development, language arts, math, science, social studies, the arts and diagnosis and remediation of learning difficulties; (7) Early language and literacy development including communication methods in early childhood education/special education; (8) Assessment and evaluation for early childhood special education to include observing, assessing, monitoring and reporting on the progress of young children;
AND
 - A minimum of eight semester hours of practicum, including:
 - A minimum of four semester hours in a supervised field experience, practicum, internship or student teaching setting serving children with identified special needs birth through preschool **or** one year of full-time teaching experience with children identified with special needs birth through preschool. Submit a [Verification of Teaching Experience](#) form signed and completed by the District Superintendent or Personnel/HR Director to verify teaching experience; **AND**
 - A minimum of four semester hours in a supervised student teaching setting serving children with identified special needs in kindergarten through grade 3 **or** one year of full time teaching experience with children identified with special needs kindergarten through grade 3. Submit a [Verification of Teaching Experience](#) form signed and completed by the District Superintendent or Personnel/HR Director to verify teaching experience
 - C. A valid Early Childhood Special Education certificate from another state.

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6. Professional Knowledge Early Childhood Exam.

One of the following:

- A. A passing score on the Professional Knowledge Early Childhood (93) portion of the Arizona Educator Proficiency Assessment ([AEPA website](#)).
- B. A valid comparable certificate from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. Submit a notarized copy of the certificate.
- C. Three (3) years of full-time teaching early childhood special education, birth - 5 years. Submit a [Verification of Teaching Experience](#) form signed and completed by the District Superintendent or Personnel/HR Director to verify teaching experience.

7. Subject Knowledge Early Childhood Special Education Exam.

One of the following:

- A. A passing score on the Subject Knowledge Early Childhood Special Education (23) portion of the Arizona Educator Proficiency Assessment ([AEPA website](#)).
- B. A valid comparable certificate from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. Submit a notarized copy of the certificate.
- C. Master's degree from an accredited institution in Early Childhood Special Education.

8. **Structured English Immersion (SEI) Endorsement ***

All classroom teachers and certified administrators must hold a valid Provisional or full SEI endorsement, or a full English as a Second Language (ESL) or full Bilingual endorsement. Applicants who obtain a Provisional SEI endorsement must qualify for a full SEI endorsement within three years to continue their Arizona certificate.

The SEI endorsement requirements are:

- Teachers and administrators continuously certified from BEFORE August 30, 2006:
 - 15 clock hours or 1 semester hour of Board approved [SEI training](#) is required for the Provisional SEI endorsement. An **ADDITIONAL** 45 clock hours or 3 semester hours of SEI completion training is required for the full SEI endorsement.
- Teachers and administrators certified ON OR AFTER August 31, 2006:
 - 45 clock hours or 3 semester hours of Board approved Augmented Provisional [SEI training](#) is required for the Provisional SEI endorsement. An **ADDITIONAL** 45 clock hours or 3 semester hours of SEI completion training is required for the full SEI endorsement.
- Teachers and administrators who hold a **Full** [English as a Second Language \(ESL\)](#) or **Full** [Bilingual Education](#) endorsement are exempt from the SEI requirement. Note: The Provisional ESL and Provisional Bilingual endorsements will **NOT** meet the SEI endorsement requirement.

*** Note:** The requirements for a Provisional SEI endorsement may be waived for a period not to exceed **one year** for individuals who graduate from administrator or teacher preparation programs that are not approved by the Arizona State Board of Education and meet all other applicable certification requirements.

Requirements # 9 and # 10 are required within one year or three years.**

9. Arizona Constitution (a college course or the appropriate examination).

10. U.S. Constitution (a college course or the appropriate examination).

****NOTE:** If you otherwise qualify for the certificate but are deficient in Arizona and/or U.S. Constitution you have 3 years under a valid teaching certificate to fulfill the requirement, except that if you are teaching an academic course on History, Government, Social Studies, Citizenship, Law, or Civics, you have 1 year to fulfill the requirement(s).

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➤ **STANDARD EARLY CHILDHOOD SPECIAL EDUCATION, BIRTH – AGE 8 OR GRADE 3 CERTIFICATE**

The Standard certificate is valid for 6 years and may be renewed.

Requirements for the Standard Early Childhood Special Education certificate are:

1. Qualify and hold the Provisional Early Childhood Special Education certificate for **2 years**.
2. **Two years** of verified full-time teaching experience during the valid period of the Provisional certificate may be used to **convert** the Provisional certificate to a Standard certificate. Submit a conversion form signed by the District Superintendent or Personnel Director verifying **2 years** of full-time teaching experience during the valid period of the Provisional certificate being converted.
3. Verification of 3 semester hours or 45 clock hours of state approved Structured English Immersion (SEI) training or comparable state approved SEI training from another state to qualify for the Full SEI endorsement.
***NOTE:** Individuals who hold a Full Bilingual or Full ESL endorsement are exempt from the SEI endorsement requirement.*
4. A photocopy of your valid Arizona Department of Public Safety Identity Verified Prints (**IVP**) fingerprint card (plastic). For more information visit the [Arizona Department of Public Safety](http://www.AZED.GOV/EDUCATOR-CERTIFICATION/) website or call (602) 223-2279.